

Please WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FOR the Home Worship Service – also on the website

<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

## Finding the Sacred in Nature

As I sit on my deck on this glorious mid-November afternoon, I am filled with gratitude for the infinite blessings of this day, this place, this life. My current sense of peace arises from mindfulness about the wondrous, natural, ever-changing world of which we are a part.

All around me this afternoon are the most exquisite sensations of beauty: the sun warm on my back and the caress of a light zephyr. The intense, cloudless, cerulean blue of the sky contrasts with the shimmering golds, greens, and vermillion in the last remaining autumn foliage. In the neighbour's apple tree, a flock of cedar waxwings whistles and trills. Blue jays call to each other in the distance and chickadees sing in the hedges; against this joyful background, the whisper of leaves drifting, one by one, to earth.

Our day-to-day world has lately been fraught with worries about Covid-19 flare-ups, political crises, climate change and more. Mercifully, this week we have had a welcome reprieve in the news of a vaccine and US election results but challenges remain.

Zen master Thich Nhat Hahn recommends that, while “we must be aware of the real problems of the world, with mindfulness we will know what to do and what not to do to be of help. If we maintain awareness of our breathing and continue to practice smiling, even in difficult situations, many people, animals and plants will benefit from our way of doing things. Are you massaging our Mother Earth every time your foot touches her? Are you planting seeds of joy and peace?” Thich says, “I try to do exactly that with every step, and I know that our Mother Earth is most appreciative. Peace is every step”

Like many of you, I have found the slower pace enforced by pandemic social distancing has allowed more time to be present with and attentive to nature. There, in the rhythm of the tides, the forest, the meadow, the flora and fauna, one may come closest to the sacred and divine.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich, was seven years old when the Black Death arrived in England. In the seven year period from 1346-1353, it is estimated that the plague killed 35-60% of European population. According to geologist Thomas Berry, “it was the Black Death that effectively ended creation spirituality in Western religion”.

Nevertheless, Julian of Norwich remained a powerful creation spiritualist, maintaining that “the first good thing is the goodness of nature”. As we take account of the damage humans are doing to the earth and reckon how to bring about change, she suggests that we “behold God in all things”, and thus “live in complete joy”. Rev Dr. Matthew Fox proposes, “Julian is urging us to stay focused on goodness – even in and especially in dire times”.

Blessings.....Bev Tedford



## Events:

Please visit our website for the bulletins for our ZOOM services and our At Home Worship along with any other virtual or in person gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**12 November Men's Club Fall Auction 2020 – Online** [www.meetyourneighbourauction.ca](http://www.meetyourneighbourauction.ca)  
**auction will close at 8:00pm on Thursday, Nov 12th.**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am In Person Worship Service Wesley United Sanctuary**  
**See website for Covid protocols No Zoom Service this Week**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 11:30am In Person Worship Service Oak Hill Hall**  
**See website for Covid protocols No Zoom Service this Week**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November Home Worship**  
A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship [provided by email](#) or please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 4 - 8 pm Highland Dance Wesley United**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 3 - 5 pm St Andrews Open Door Wesley United**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 7 - 9pm Wesley Board Meeting Wesley United**

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 10 am Worship service via Zoom with Jane Doull**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185> ID: 306 739 2185  
Feel free to share the Zoom link with anyone else who wants to come

## New Gifts with Vision Catalogue Has Launched!

A new year of giving through [Gifts with Vision](#) has begun! There are lots of great new gifts for our partners in Canada and across the world, along with some of your favourite projects from previous catalogues.

The world has changed so much since this time last year, and some of the new gifts reflect that, showing how our partners are responding to the pandemic. Your gifts bring help to those who need it most.

Shop the [Gifts with Vision catalogue](#) and help save and transform lives!



**Dedications are most welcome remembering, honouring, celebrating a special person, event or season! Please email [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com) with your request. Thanks!**  
Photos or any other requests to go with dedications – favourite flower or season etc.....

**In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull**  
at 529-3474 or email me or text at 467-1494

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

**Please send all announcements to: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com) State if you wish them to go on the Bulletin, the COOP, Facebook page, Website, or all four! (photos can be placed on all but the bulletin) Thank you!**

**PRAYER REQUESTS: may be given to our Prayer Circle by**

- 1. contacting Barb King [davebarbking@gmail.com](mailto:davebarbking@gmail.com)**
- 2. contacting Sharon Hannan [retired@xplornet.ca](mailto:retired@xplornet.ca) or phone 466-1435**
- 3. by asking any of us from Wesley/St James community to pass on a request**

Sent to you by  
Wesley United Church, 77 William St, St Andrews NB E5B1W8 and  
St James Pastoral Charge, 731 Route 745, Oak Hill, NB E5A3C7

**In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull**  
**call 529-3474 text 467-1494 email [jvdoull@gmail.com](mailto:jvdoull@gmail.com)**

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

Office email: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com) Website: <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>  
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